

Term “Low Migration Ink” no longer used by EuPIA

The term ‘low migration’ was introduced into the European printing ink market and food packaging sector more than fifteen years ago. This was used to refer to inks applied to the non-food contact surface of food packaging that were formulated in order to meet the migration limits required for food packaging applications and safe use.

In light of advances in this field, which are reflected in the 2016 revision of the EuPIA Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)¹ for printing inks for food contact materials, this term is now no longer used by EuPIA. Instead, EuPIA uses the term “printing inks for food contact materials ” for those printing inks which are designed to be applied on a material that is in contact with food. These inks are required to be compliant with the EuPIA GMP.

Individual EuPIA members may still use terms such as “low migration ink”, “ink optimized for migration” etc. In these cases converters are invited to satisfy themselves that these inks fulfil the requirements of the EuPIA GMP.

The EuPIA GMP

Printing inks used for food contact materials applications are required to comply with the ‘Framework Regulation’ (EC) No 1934/2004 and the ‘GMP Regulation’ (EC) No 2023/2006. In the absence of a specific EU-harmonised regulation on printing inks for food contact materials, this legislation forms the basis for the approach taken by the European ink industry.

The EuPIA GMP assists in controlling food safety hazards in the design and manufacture of inks, varnishes, and coatings designed to be printed onto food contact materials, and formulated for use on either the non-food contact or the food contact surfaces of food packaging and articles intended to come into contact with food. Products developed and manufactured in compliance with this GMP are supporting manufacturers of food contact materials in supplying products compliant to the applicable legislation in Europe for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. The EuPIA GMP includes requirements on product composition, quality and hygiene management.

Therefore, the optimisation of the migration behaviour of an ink compliant with the EuPIA GMP is only one of several requirements that have to be fulfilled.

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¹ Available on the EuPIA Website www.eupia.org